

Quiet Title Act (28 U.S.C. 2409a) or other applicable law, or affects the exchange and disposal authorities of the Secretary of Agriculture, including the Small Tracts Act (16 U.S.C. 521c), or the exchange and disposal authorities of the Secretary of the Army.

(g) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The appropriate Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under subsection (c)(1) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

□ 1430

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides a mechanism for the Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers to resolve boundary conflicts between the Mark Twain National Forest and adjacent private landowners. The dispute over boundaries stems from recent surveys conducted by contractors to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which have subsequently been found severely flawed by the State Surveyor for Missouri.

The measure sets a process for dealing with disputed boundaries. The landowner would notify the Secretary of Agriculture of a disputed boundary, prompting a new land survey. If the Secretary determines that the boundary conflict is the result of a reliance on a previous land survey, the land in dispute can be returned to the property owner.

It is important to note that the bill does not require the conveyance of any particular lands. Where a new survey shows that the lands in question were surveyed improperly, the Forest Service can either execute a quit claim deed, assert Federal ownership if the Federal Government has improved the land, or compensate the landowner for the land.

We made one minor change to the bill which requires that any liability for environmental hazards on the property, if any, be settled through an agreement between the landowner and the Federal Government. This change was requested by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

This is a case where the Federal Government has not exercised adequate due diligence in maintaining their land surveys to the detriment of their neighbors. Rather than redrawing map boundaries from Washington, we are creating a process where these folks can address their claims closer to home. The Committee on Agriculture regards this as an equitable solution to a local problem created by the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2304, legislation to resolve boundary conflicts in the vicinity of the Mark Twain National Forest in Barry and Stone Counties, Missouri, resulting from private landowner reliance on a subsequent Federal survey.

These boundary conflicts resulted from discrepancies between recent land surveys conducted by the U.S. Forest Service and its implementation of the Restoration of Original Corners Program, and decades-old surveys conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. As a result of the more recent land surveys, private property lands adjoining Federal lands were moved, and private property landowners discovered that, due to their reliance on the older land surveys, they had inadvertently trespassed on Federal land.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2304 would remedy these boundary discrepancies by authorizing and directing the Secretary of Agriculture to convey title to U.S. Forest Service land on which private landowners can demonstrate that they inadvertently trespassed because of their reliance on a previous inaccurate Federal survey, or relied on a survey based on a previous inaccurate survey.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in order to resolve these boundary discrepancies.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a commonsense solution at the local level to problems that the Federal Government has created. The Committee on Agriculture strongly supports this bill, and I hope that Members will join us in supporting this bill.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for the speedy resolution of a boundary dispute affecting private property owners in my Congressional District.

Apparently, there are some local issues that apparently only an act of Congress can solve.

This issue surfaced when private property owners' historic boundary lines neighboring the Mark Twain National Forest and Table Rock Lake in Missouri's Barry and Stone Counties were blurred when the U.S. Forest Service restored the mid-1800s Corners program.

Over the years, the Forest Service has been effectively shaving off substantial sections of private property that adjoins federal lands. Recent land surveys have found major differences in surveys conducted by the Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers. My legislation would resolve these discrepancies, so private property owners don't lose property adjoining Federal lands.

A fight with the Federal Government over a boundary line can be an uphill battle. This bill will maintain the original property lines and hand the title of the disputed land to the private landowner.

The Federal Government already owns a third of the nation's land, and inaccuracies in

federally conducted surveys should never force landowners to forfeit their property.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House's approval of this common-sense bill.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2304, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2304, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

□ 1448

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.

#### GEORGE HENRY WHITE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3353) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 Main Street in Tarboro, North Carolina, as the "George Henry White Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3353

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. GEORGE HENRY WHITE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 Main Street in Tarboro, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "George Henry White Post Office Building".

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the George Henry White Post Office Building.